

As I watched *Self Made*, the further I got in the episode, the more you can see how Kira Kelly told a story through lighting, camera angles, and scenery. All throughout episode one, you see how the cinematography tells the story of how the main character feels.



In this scene, Addie tells Madame CJ Walker that nobody will buy her hair products because “colored women will do anything to have straight hair.” Because of the negative and strong emotions in this scene, the DP used darker colors to set the tone.



In this scene, Madame CJ Walker is sharing her products with other black women. She tells them about how she will do their hair for free and how often people will put black women down for their hair. Because this scene mostly revolves around a new beginning and a fresh start, the DP could have used the plants to symbolize regrowth.



In this scene, Madame CJ Walker begins to have a breakdown because Addie embarrassing her in front of the entire church. Addie exploits her by talking about how she is going to open up a salon that isn't located in a kitchen. This resulted in Madame CJ Walker punching the mirror. This is a beautifully shot scene because the broken mirror could symbolize how the character feels, broken.